AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A magnetic recording medium comprising a magnetic layer on at least one side of ~~a~~ an inorganic nonmagnetic substrate, the magnetic layer containing magnetic particles of a CuAu type or Cu_3Au type ferromagnetic ordered phase, wherein a conductive layer is provided on at least one side of the inorganic nonmagnetic substrate.

2. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~1~~ 16, wherein the conductive layer is disposed between the inorganic nonmagnetic substrate and the magnetic layer.

3. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~1~~ 16, wherein the conductive layer is disposed on the inorganic nonmagnetic substrate on a side opposite to the magnetic layer.

4. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~1~~ 16, wherein the conductive layer is disposed on an ~~end surface~~ edge of the inorganic nonmagnetic substrate.

5. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~1~~ 16, wherein the ~~conducive~~ conductive layer contains a conductive metal oxide.

6. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim 5, wherein the conductive metal oxide is selected from ZnO, TiO_2, SnO_2, Al_2O_3, In_2O_3, SiO_2, MgO, BaO, MoO_3, V_2O_5 and complex oxides thereof.

7. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim 5, wherein the conductive metal oxide has a volume resistivity of not more than 10^7 Ωcm.

8. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~1~~ 16, wherein the conductive layer contains carbon black.

9. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim 8, wherein the carbon black has an SBET of 50 to 500 m^2/g.

10. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim 8, wherein the carbon black has a DBP oil absorption of 20 to 400 ml/100 g.

11. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~1~~ 16, wherein the conductive layer contains a conductive polymer compound.

12. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~1~~ 16, wherein the conductive layer has a thickness of 10 to 700 nm.

13. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~1~~ 16, wherein the magnetic recording medium has a surface electric resistance of not more than 10^{10} Ω/sq.

14. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~1~~ 16 further comprising another magnetic layer, a nonmagnetic layer, or a back layer on a side opposite to the magnetic layer.

15. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~1~~ 16 further comprising a protection film on the magnetic layer.

16. (new): The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the conductive layer is 10 to 400 nm.

17. (new): The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the conductive layer is 20 to 400 nm.